

This waste site listed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA ("Superfund"))

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SERVICE, INC.
Griffith, Indiana

Conditions at listing (September 1983): American Chemical Service, Inc., recycled chemicals in Griffith, Indiana, from 1958 to 1975, when it voluntarily stopped using two disposal areas on-site and covered them. The State has responded to complaints about the company since 1972. The site contains buried drums (estimated at 20,000) and sludges (primarily pigment and resins); the amounts, nature, and source are unknown.

The shallow aquifer beneath the site is contaminated with pentachlorophenol, benzene, toluene, vinyl chloride, 1,1,1-trichloroethylene, and other organic compounds, according to analyses conducted for the State. The majority of the 10,000 people residing within 3 miles of the site obtain drinking water from the lower aquifer. No contamination of drinking wells has been documented to date. The aquifers are separated by a supposedly continuous 15-to-25 foot layer of clay. The site is entirely mantled by sandy soil with high permeability. Ground water flows primarily to the northwest.

Status (June 1984): EPA has completed a search for parties potentially responsible for wastes associated with the site.

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



267399

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American Chemical Service, Inc. Indiana - Responsible Party Search

Background Information

American Chemical Services Co. recycled chemicals in Griffith (Lake Co.), Indiana, from 1958 to 1975, when it voluntarily stopped using two disposal areas on-site and covered them. The State has responded to complaints about the company since 1972. The site contains buried drums (estimated at 20,000) and sludges (primarily pigment and resins); the amounts, nature and sources are unknown.

ACCORDING TO ANALYSES CONDUCTED BY WEST COAST TECHNICAL SERVICE INC.

The shallow aquifer beneath the site is contaminated with pentachlorophenol, benzene, toluene, vinyl chloride, 1,1,1-trichloroethylene and other organic compounds. The majority of the 10,000 people residing within 3 miles of the site use the lower aquifer for drinking purposes (75-80% of the 2,132 drinking wells within a 3-mile radius). No drinking well contamination has been documented. The aquifers are separated by a supposedly continuous 15 to 25 foot thick layer of clay. The site is entirely mantled by sandy soil with a high permeability. The groundwater flow direction is primarily northwestward. A swamp area exists near the southwest corner of this site and about one-half mile to the northeast.

Past owner and operator is Mr. James Tarpo (219-924-4370). Records concerning generators, waste types and quantities were reported missing shortly after the facility closed.

Completion Date

April 30, 1984

Scope of Work

I. File Search:

1. Indiana State Board of Health
Ms. Sherry Evans - Carmichael 317-633-8546
1330 W. Michigan St.
P.O. Box 1964
Indianapolis, IN 46206
2. Lake County Health Dept.
Environmental - Air and Water
2293 N. Main
Grown Point, IN.
3. Mr. Glen Reyone, Director of
Public Works
City of Griffith
111 N. Broad St.
Griffith, IN 46319

II. Interviews:

To be determined after file search is completed.

Travel Required

One trip to Indiana to include Indiana State Board of Health, (Indianapolis), Lake County Health Department (Crown Point) and City of Griffith.

Regional Contacts

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